

Naxalite activities in Orissa

1133. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the increasing naxalite activities in the State of Orissa;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to ensure safety of the people in the border districts of Gayapathic/Malkangiri (Andhra Pradesh Border) and Mayurbhanj (West Bengal border) in Orissa State; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Increasing left wing extremist activities in some areas of the State are a casue for concern.

(b) and (c) The State Government has taken several measures to deal with the situation. In the wake of recent naxalite attacks in Malkangiri district, Para-military forces have been inducted and combing operations are underway. Similarly, State Police Force has also been deployed in Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts. Concerted efforts are being made to monitor the activities of naxalite groups and to undertake well coordinated operations to counter them. Vulnerable police stations have been identified and appropriate measures are being taken to strengthen them to ensure security of the people. A new Battalion of the State Police Force has been created by the State Government and the Central Government has sanctioned one India Reserve Battalion. Training and modernization of State police forces will also enable them to deal with the situation more effectively.